

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13-17 and 19-22 have been amended, and have added new claims 23-25. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-25 are presently pending in the application.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for his careful review of the present application, his thorough search and analysis of the prior art, and his indication that claims 11-13 contain allowable subject matter. Those claims 11-13 are submitted herewith as new claims 23-25.


Regarding the objections and rejections to the claims, Applicants would like to thank Examiner Terry L. Englund for the telephonic examiner interview conducted with Applicants' representative, Kenton R. Mullins, on January 3, 2005, at which time it was indicated by Examiner Englund that independent claims 1, 10 and 14 as presently amended appear to overcome the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, 102 and 103. Regarding the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, the present amendments to the independent claims were indicated in that interview further to vitiate any potential 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, new matter rejections. For instance, in connection with the above amendments to claims 1 and 14, Applicants directed the Examiner's attention to, for example, language in the last full paragraph of page 2 and the last paragraph of page 15 of Applicants' specification. Examiner Englund reserved the right to review the case in greater detail and to conduct an update search. Applicants request that the outstanding rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Applicant: Tseng et al.
Serial No.: 10/609,038
Page 11 of 11

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of same is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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Proposed Amendments to the Drawings

Please see the attached proposed drawing changes as Appendix A.

APPENDIX A